



**B | T | D** The Balkan Trust  
for Democracy  
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## Balkan Perspectives Adapting the partnership and integration paths

*Conference organised by  
the NATO Defense College Foundation  
with the support of the NATO Defense College, the NATO Public Diplomacy Division and  
The Balkan Trust for Democracy*

**Rome, 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2019**

Venue: *Italian Chamber of Deputies, Piazza di Monte Citorio, 1, Rome (tbc)*

### ***Draft Agenda***

#### **16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

13,30-14,15      *Arrival of participants - Registration*

14,15            *Welcome remarks*

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome \*
- **Chris Whitecross**, Commandant, NATO Defense College, Rome

*Opening remarks*

**Marta Grande**, President, Foreign Affairs Committee, Italian Chamber of Deputies, Rome

14,45-16,00

## SESSION 1 BALKAN POLITICS ON THE RAZOR'S EDGE

*Two decades after the arrival of KFOR in Kosovo, the Balkan Six have experienced a long peace that has helped healing many of the scars of the war of dissolution. But on the backdrop of the ups and downs along the path towards wider integration, regional politics are struggling with the paradox of progress. Are evident in the region risks of authoritarian tendencies and foreign manipulation following a trend less democracy and more political and economic opacity. How can national societies and governments counter these developments and how can the international community and especially NATO's Partnership for Peace countries assist in an innovative way against hybrid internal and external threats?*

Chair: **Gordana Delić**, Director, Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade

- ❑ **Savo Kentera**, President, Atlantic Council of Montenegro, Podgorica
- ❑ **Marc Pierini**, former Head, Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, Brussels
- ❑ **Dušan Reljić**, Head of Office, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin \*

General Discussion

16,00 -16,15 *Coffee break*

16,15 -17,30

## SESSION 2 NATO AND EUROPE: THE TORTUOUS INTEGRATION PATH

*The prospect of EU/NATO integration remains the main vehicle towards the achievement of regional stability and security. However, the prospective of accession is not sufficient to address all local shortcomings. Montenegro's and Albania's leaderships are put into question, while North Macedonia has to fully overcome the consequences of its past. On the other hand, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo, risk to be an eternally unfinished job. Conditionality and quid pro quo have been two main suasion instruments, but local elites and societies have difficulties in following this approach.*

Chair: **Kai Eide**, former Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations in Kosovo, Oslo \*

- ❑ **Michel Soula**, Head, Operations Section, Operations Division, NATO HQ, Brussels
- ❑ **Maciej Popowski**, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission, Brussels \*
- ❑ **Tomas Valasek**, Director, Carnegie Europe, Brussels

General discussion

17,30 - 17,45 *Coffee break*

17,45 - 19,00

### SESSION 3 SYNERGISING PARTNERSHIPS IN LONG-TERM STABILISATION MISSIONS

*As clearly shown by the KFOR mission, NATO's longest and yet most successful, the classic military environment is just part of a more multifaceted co-operative security effort. The Balkan Six are clearly affected by regional threats such as organised crime, trafficking of human beings, corruption, energy security supply and terrorism. Some countries are already NATO members, others are involved in the Partnership for Peace or similar programmes, all need to better co-ordinate resources, efforts and to strengthen regional stability.*

Chair: **Stephen J. Mariano**, Dean, NATO Defense College, Rome

- ❑ **Ahmet Evin**, founding Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sabanci University, Istanbul \*
- ❑ **Paul Radu**, Executive Director, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Bucharest \*
- ❑ **Erin Marie Saltman**, EMEA Policy Manager for Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, Facebook, London

General discussion

19,00-19,10

### SPECIAL INTERVENTION

**Luciano Portolano**, Chief of Staff, Allied Joint Force Command, Giugliano (Naples)

19,10 - 19,20

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

TBC

**END OF THE WORKING DAY**

\* Confirmed speakers